DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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Gas Chamber Firm Back at Work

The I. G. Farben Industry, Germany's great chemical trust which made the Zyklon gas used in the nazi extermination camps, is back in full scale production and making bigger profits than ever in West Germany today.

Shares of the I. G. Farben, which according to the Potsdam Agreement was to be destroyed for ever, will go back on sale on West German stock markets at the end of this month.

Balance sheets of the firm show that production today is well above production in 1938, when Hitler was pushing armament ahead at full speed.

Profits have been so great that the trust has been able to write off completely the factories valued at nearly three thousand million marks taken over in East Germany and now used for the benefit of the people.

The announcement that dealings will be resumed in I. G. Farben shares has revealed that the entire work of "decartellisation" carried through under American control in West Germany was an utter sham.

The main effect of decartellisation, which nominally split the huge trust into three parts, "Farbenfabriken Bayern," "Badische Anilin- und Sodafabriken" and "Farbwerke Hoechst," has been to increase the efficiency of the operation of the trust.

Turnover of these branches in millions of marks has been:

	1949	1950	1951
Farbenfabriken Bayern	409.8	577.4	890.9
Badische Anilin	263.7	485.6	678.7
Farbwerke Höchst	321.7	454.0	638.0

(The main factory of Badische Anilin at Ludwigshafen hit the headlines on July 28th 1948 when more than 200 workers were killed in the explosion of tanks of Hydrat-Hydrosin, the liquid used to drive V-2 rocket bombs.)

Simultaneously with the announcement that the stocks of I. G. Farben are coming back on the market, the balance sheet of the company for the war years was released, showing that a profit of over six thousand million marks had been made from war production including explosives, gas, propellants and thousands of other items.

A large part of this profit was provided by the five million slave labourers from all over Europe, who were driven to Germany to

(cont. on p. 2)

PRÉ-FABRICATED FLATS

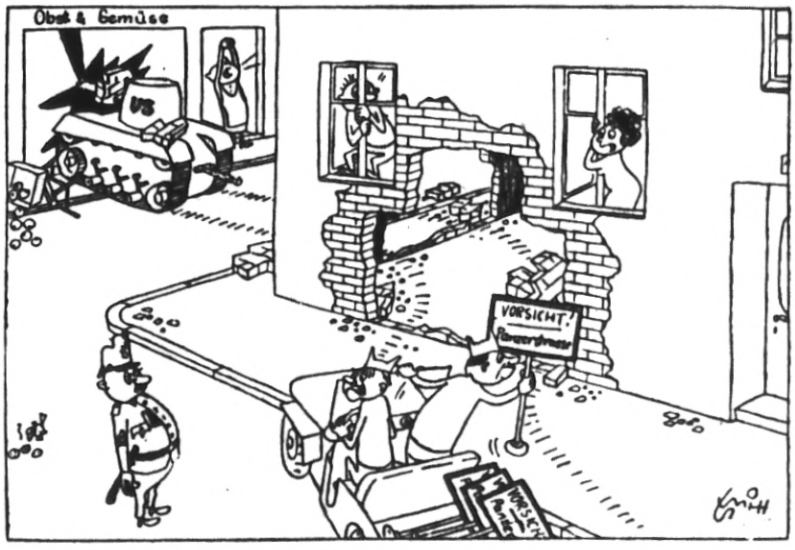
East Berlin's rebuilding programme will go into high gear in the middle of July, when pre-fabricated walls and ceilings will be used for the first time in the construction of workers' flats.

The first blocks, eight to ten storey buildings on the Stalin Allee, will be built of reinforced concrete slabs weighing up to six tons each.

POLISH RECORD SMASHED

Three Activists in Eisenach, East Germany, working on the Polish "Three man system" have laid a total of 24,072 bricks in one eight hour shift, beating the previous Polish record by 1072 bricks.

After the Bonn War Treaty



"This is hereby declared a tank highway!" (From the Berliner Zeitung)

Two British tanks completely demolished an open-air restaurant in Evendorf, British Zone, after the owner had refused to serve alcoholic drinks to the drivers, Associated Press reported.

The tanks were driven round and round the restaurant, moving down hedges, tables and chairs. A shot fired from the cannon of one tank smashed the windows of a nearby house.

(cont. from p. 1)

I. G. Farben Back at Work

work for the nazis. Chemical experiments were carried out by I. G. Farben officials on concentration camp prisoners.

One of I. G. Farben's leading officials, Dr. Fritz ter Mer, cross-examined after the war by a British offical about these experiments stated: "There could be nothing wrong in them, since the camp inmates were doomed to die in any case."

Footnote: 24 Directors of the I. G. Farben Trust went on trial at Nuremberg in 1948, charged with crimes against humanity. In making his charge against these men, who are today back at work preparing another war, U.S. Chief Prosecutor Taylor stated:

"These 24 responsible leading directors of the I.G.Farben Concern are the main war criminals. If the guilt of these accused is not brought to light and punished, then these men would represent a greater danger to the future peace of the world than Hitler if he were still alive.

"These serious accusations have not been made by accident or without due consideration. They are such frightful charges that no one could make them without being fully aware of the serious responsibility resting upon him.

"The crimes of which these men stand accused were not committed in the heat of anger or under the impulse of sudden temptation. One does not construct a war machine in a fit of temper, or build an Auschwitz in a burst of brutality. The things which these men did were done after due consideration, and they would do them again at the next opportunity if they got the chance."

(This quotation has been re-translated from the German.)

Eight Years Jail for Saboteurs

The High Court in Leipzig, East Germany, has passed sentences of eight years imprisonment on two men who had been sent into the German Democratic Republic from West Berlin charged with carrying out extensive sabotage.

The two men, Alfred Mahn, a 25 year old market gardener, and Ulrich Zimm, 27 year old office worker, confessed that they had been ordered by the West Berlin terrorist organisation "Fighting Group against Inhumanity" to carry out a variety of sabotage acts, ranging from arson to cutting telephone lines. In addition they had been charged with drawing up "black lists" of progressive citizens of the German Democratic Republic.

The "Fighting Group against Inhumanity" is partially financed by the American Ford Foundation, according to officials of the group.

RESISTANCE TO BONN TREATY GROWING

WORKERS DEMONSTRATE DESPITE LEADERS TREACHERY

Opposition to the Bonn War Treaty continued to grow in all sections of the West German population during June, and huge demonstrations and protest strikes were held in many towns.

The chairman of the West German Trade Union Federation, Christian Fette, after discussions with ministers of Adenauer's government on June 11th, attempted to call-off the series of strikes and protests arranged by his own Federation, but action continued.

Reports from all parts of West Germany and from West Berlin showed that local union branches and trade councils had rejected the "no-strike" order and would continue their action against the Bonn Treaty and the hated new West German Factory Law.

Union leader Christian Fette, in addition to complying with government demands that the protest movement be called-off, also engaged in discussions on the part which the Trade Union leadership could play in the West German "Economic Council" to be set up by Adenauer to co-ordinate war production.

During the second week in June particularly successful warning strikes were held in Hanover, where 100,000 workers demonstrated against the Adenauer government, in Karlsruhe and in Bremerhaven.

The opposition movement to the Bonn Treaty extended into the ranks of the members of parliament of Adenauer's own party, the Christian Democratic Union, two of whom, Herr Bodensteiner and Herr Müller-Hermann, protested against the treaty on the grounds that it would perpetuate the partitioning of Germany.

The "Deutsche Zeitung", conservative financial organ, stated on June 14th in a leading article:

"The chancellor (Adenauer) feels himself menaced by the melting away of his government majority, and is therefore trying to press ahead with all speed.

"Since the offers from Moscow (of a peace treaty, ed.) people are demanding a policy change rather than the creation of a European Army.

"The Federal government must not delude itself. The demand for German unity is a genuine demand made by the majority of the people."

The demand for unity is rising in Germany, reported the New York Times in a dispatch from Bonn on June 8th.

"Proposals that the Federal Government make a final attempt to create a basis for re-unification with the East German Government are appearing with more frequency as the debate over ratification of treaties binding West Germany to rearmament and the Atlantic alliance gets under way" the paper reported.

"Dissatisfaction over unity and several internal issues is nearing a crisis, and action must be taken on these issues or the whole government program on ratification will suffer.

"Political observers see ratification of the treaty system affected by four important issues: Unity, Soviet and East German pressure on the Federal Republic, a dawning understanding of what the responsibilities of the treaty system will mean to the Germans, and continued unrest among industrial workers.

"Of these, unity is the most important because it is the most pervasive. Impelled by this conviction, several Deputies of the Bundestag's ruling coalition have defied Dr Adenauer and the party whips and are opposing ratification.

"A recent speech by Dr Karl Pfeiderer of the Free Democrats, the second largest government party, is a good example of this trend. He began by assailing Dr Adenauer for having told the Bundestag that the treaties must be ratified soon to suit the convenience of the United States.

"'I do not know whether the West German Government realises that public opinion disagrees with it' he said. 'We are indignant about this attempt to link one of the weightiest decisions on our future with the election campaign in a foreign state.'

"The concern over unity that is developing transcends party lines or local considerations.

"Industrial workers and farmers . . . already restive under what they consider low wages and high indirect taxes, are concerned over the prospect that conscription will be introduced next year."

Soviets protest on:

Kidnapping ...

The Soviet authorities in Germany have lodged a strong protest with the British authorities against the kidnapping of two Peoples Policemen on the zonal border.

The protest, signed by Major General Trussov, Soviet Deputy Chief of Staff, stated that two People's Policemen named Johannes Elchlepp and Wolfgang Koch had been shot at and kidnapped on May 23rd by West German police who crossed the border of the German Democratic Republic near the village of Lockstaedt.

"Cartridge cases and blood-smeared bandages found at the scene of the crime showed that one of the People's Policemen had been injured," the protest note said.

Major General Trussov demanded the immediate release of the two men.

... Phone Bills ...

The Soviet Control Commission has presented sizeable telephone bills to the British and American occupation authorities in Germany for the use of the lines running between West Berlin and West Germany through the German Democratic Republic.

The bills, possibly the biggest since the invention of the telephone, amount to approximately 14 million dollars for the American authorities and 4½ million dollars for the British authorities.

The Soviet Control Commission, in a covering letter, pointed that the western powers had been using these lines since 1945 without paying for their maintenance, although bills had frequently been presented by the East German authorities.

... Air Violations

Two British jet fighters flew ten miles deep into the territory of the German Democratic Republic on June 12th, Major General Trussov, Soviet Deputy Chief of Staff in Germany stated in a protest addressed to the British authorities.

"The British military authorities will bear full responsibility for any consequences which may arise from the illegal flight of British aircraft over the territory of the German Democratic Republic" he stated in his protest note.

New Soviet Diplomatic Chief in Berlin

The Soviet Union has appointed I. I. Ilyitshov as new chief of the diplomatic mission in Berlin. Mr. Ilyitshov, who has already arrived in Berlin, replaces Ambassador G. M. Pushkin, who has been appointed a Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union.

COMMENTARY

Kidnappings, shootings, refugees, blockades — that has been the news from Germany in most Anglo-American newspapers in the past few weeks.

What has actually happened? The East German authorities have taken severe measures to stop spies and saboteurs entering the German Democratic Republic, either from West Germany or from West Berlin.

The East German authorities have carried out the most elementary duty of any state — to protect its citizens. GERMAN REPORT has given details enough of the work of these agents.

The protective measures have involved inconvenience and even hardship for a few thousand citizens living in the immediate vicinity of the frontiers which partition Germany, and on the city limits of Berlin.

Special steps have been taken to see that the hardships are reduced to the minimum, and all inhabitants in the frontier districts have been granted special tax reductions and wage increases to compensate them for the difficulties.

And what about the mass evictions? They simply do not exist. In a handful of cases where farmhouses straddled the frontier, offering a perfect hideout, the owners have been moved to other accomodations. In the course of a rigid security check a considerable number of agents living in frontier districts have been arrested. Otherwise life in the border counties of the German Democratic Republic goes on as ever, and farmers are getting ready to bring in a bumper harvest.

What about the "refugees fleeing to the west"? Some people with guilty consciences fled to avoid arrest. A few others were themselves victims of western propaganda and left their farms and crops in a fit of panic. Many have already returned, after seeing the reality of unemployment and need in West Germany.

What about the "kidnappings" and the "shooting" and the "blockades" reported almost hourly from Berlin?

Many of the incidents reported never occur at all. All of the "kidnappings" which GERMAN REPORT has investigated have turned out to be perfectly normal arrests for frontier violations, smuggling and other criminal offences.

When soldiers of four nations and two separate police forces, all armed, crowd each other in one city, there can be no surprise when a shot is occasionally fired, nearly always a warning shot into the air. There are probably fewer shots fired in 24 hours in Berlin than in New York.

The question you must ask is: Who has been responsible for the minor incidents which have occured, for the difficulties of the frontier population?

Solely the small gang of Germans, Americans, British and French, who on May 26th signed the Bonn Treaty pledging West Germany to raise a new nazi Wehrmacht to wage offensive war.

Solely those who train, equip and pay the spies and saboteurs who are still being sent into East Germany seeking to wreck the economy and help start a new war.

If the elected representatives of the people of West Germany, Britain, France and the United States refuse to ratify the Bonn War Treaty, the nazis will not march again, and Germany can be re-united in peace. To achieve that you too must do your bit to see that they refuse ratification.

The Editor

Saboteurs with guns

Four members of a sabotage group calling itself the "National Labour Federation" have been arrested in the German Democratic Republic, the Ministry of State Security reported.

The men, who were armed with pistols and daggers, confessed that they had been commissioned to murder a number of persons, including Soviet officers.

They stated that their headquarters was situated in the British Sector of Berlin, at 59 Hohenzollerndamm, in an office camouflaged as the "Hamburg Refugee Committee."

The organisation which was financed by the U. S. Counter Intelligence Corps, was headed by a Russian emigre named Alexander Trushnovich, who during the war had worked for the nazi intelligence service.

U. S. Court Splits Family

A United States Military Court in Wuerzburg has refused to repatriate two Polish children to their father in Poland on the grounds that the father is not living in Poland.

The father lives in Wroclaw (Breslau), which lies more than 100 miles inside the Polish frontiers laid down by the Potsdam Agreement, signed among others by Harry S. Truman. The court claimed that Wroclaw was a German town, and ordered the children kept in an orphanage.

PROFILE

KONRAD ADENAUER — GERMAN QUISLING

On May 26th 1952 a 76 year old man with a face like rumpled and decaying parchment signed a contract selling the youth of West Germany to the recruiting sergeants for a new war — Acheson, Schuman and Eden.

He was Konrad Adenauer, a man who has sold his country and himself so often that he easily qualifies for the title of Europe's senior Quisling.

It is perhaps almost an insult to the original Quisling to call Adenauer by this name. After all, Major Quisling was simply a small-time fanatic, who may have even believed that he was helping his countrymen when he sold Norway to the nazis in April 1940.

No Fanatic

But Adenauer has no such excuses. He is no fanatic, and when he signed the Bonn Treaty this May he knew very well that he was not saving his countrymen but simply selling them to the big business interests in West Germany, Britain, France and above all America. Why? So that these big businessmen could make even more money than before in preparing a new war.

Adenauer, who was born in the Rhineland in 1876, has been a professional politician all his adult life, rising steadily until he became Lord Mayor of the rich city of Cologne in 1917. This post put him into contact with international politics for the first time, for when the German Kaiser fled in November 1918, and the German Empire seemed to be breaking up, he became one of the most fervent behind-the-scenes advocates of the Rhineland Separatist movement. This movement aimed at setting up a puppet-state, under French control and protection, on the Rhine and the Ruhr.

Bayonets Needed

Main moving force behind the scheme were the steel and coal barons of the Ruhr, who wanted the protection of French bayonets against the Socialism which they feared was spreading from the east.

Adenauer worked hard, mainly in the background, to achieve this aim, but he is on record as having made several public pronouncements which sound very much like treason to any patriotic German. Speaking on February 1st 1919 to a specially summoned meeting of leading Cologne citizens Adenauer said:

"Either we attach ourselves directly to France, or we join France as a buffer state, or we become a West German Republic. There is no other way."

The Rhineland Separatist movement, which received large sums of money from French secret service funds as well as from the Ruhr industrialists, broke down when it became clear that the "forces of law and order"—that is to say the Kaiser's old generals—had regained control throughout Germany: when it became clear in fact that French bayonets would not be needed to keep the German workers down.

Adenauer continued in office as semi-permanent Lord Mayor of Cologne, and during the pre-Hitler republic he steadily climbed the ladder in public life, becoming finally chairman of the Prussian Council of State.

It was this post which gave him the chance to be on the receiving end of a really nice large bribe, one million marks —then about two hundred thousand dollars—from the German Artificial Silk Trust—for the part he had played in pushing through a revision of the import taxes on artificial silks.

An interesting sidelight on his attitude towards international fascism was given by a telegram which he sent to Mussolini in 1929 which stated:

"The name Mussolini will be entered in the book of history in golden letters."

Adenauer had often chosen the right side in the game of politics, but he made a mistake in the years before 1933 in not backing Hitler as future ruler of Germany. His support went to other candidates for the dictatorship, with the result that after Hitler came to power Adenauer had to go into retirement.

Taking it Easy

Real anti-nazis had a hard time during the Hitler dictatorship, fighting underground, in prisons and concentration camps, and in foreign lands, but Adenauer took it easy.

A semi-official biography of the chancellor, which appeared in the official American "Neue Zeitung" on September 16th 1949, describing his life on full pension during the nazi period, stated "He did not worry. He pottered about in his garden, and tended his roses."

After the war Adenauer suddenly recalled that he had been a "victim of nazism" and got the British military authorities to appoint him Lord Mayor of Cologne again. In the first weeks he bowed and scraped, seeking favour with the new bosses with such statements as this, made in July 1945:

"It is urgently necessary that the Allies keep Germany occupied for a long period, since Germany is quite incapable of governing itself. It is necessary however to give the people a little freedom of movement, like a horse in harness when you give him his head."

After a few weeks as Lord Mayor of Cologne he was sacked by the British military authorities for incompetence, but this did not worry Adenauer, since he had already used his extensive family connections to sell his services to the American occupation forces.

Here are a few examples of these family ties:

> *His son-in-law is banker Josef Wehrhahn, financial magnate and himself a cousin of Cardinal Frings, influential Roman Catholic.*
> *His wife Gussie Zinsser is the cousin of Mrs. Ellen McCloy, wife of U.S. High Commissioner John McCloy; and also cousin of Mrs. Peggy Douglas, wife of Lewis Douglas, American banker and former U.S. Ambassador in London.*

With the help of his influential relations, and many financiers, both German and American, with whom he did not happen to be related, Konrad Adenauer started climbing the ladder once again, until finally, in 1949, he was elected Chancellor of West Germany by the West German parliament.

Majority of One

There has always been an air of fraud and trickery about Adenauer, and it is perhaps appropriate that he was elected by a majority of exactly one— and that majority of one has since turned out to be invalid, since one of the Deputies has been exposed as a former nazi who was sitting and voting under an assumed name.

Since his election as chancellor his history has been one of treachery and betrayal, culminating in the signature of the Bonn Treaty with the western allies on May 26th.

"Adenauer always collaborated in a loyal and correct manner always ready to seek a compromise, often at the cost of German interests", stated the London newspaper "Observer" on August 28th 1949.

He collaborates, not only at the cost of German interests, but at the cost of the interests of all people in the world who want peace. The German people will see to it that this collaborator, traitor, and enemy of peace receives the punishment he deserves.

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Top Peace Leaders to meet in Berlin

Berlin will be the meeting place for top leaders of the peace movement from all parts of the world from July 1st to July 5th, when the World Peace Council will come together in special session here.

Main items on the agenda of the meeting will be

1. peaceful solution of the German and Japanese questions,
2. immediate end to the Korean war,
3. the struggle against the armament race and for the conclusion of a peace pact.

Death Zone on Rhine

The Atlantic Pact General Staff has completed plans to flood the lower Rhine, drowning millions of people, "in case of need" according to Berlin press reports from Bonn.

The flooding will be accomplished by the building of a huge dam in the area of Uebergen and Ooij, just inside the Dutch frontier near Nijmegen, these reports stated. The cutting of the Rhine at this point would mean the flooding of large parts of the Ruhr, most densely populated part of Germany.

In 1950 American plans to block the upper Rhine near Koblenz, thus flooding the Frankfurt area, were disclosed. Photos of the demolition chambers prepared in the rock of the world famous Lorelei Crag were published in the American press.

The western military authorities planned to blast the walls of the Rhine gorge, thus forming a dam which would lay waste thousands of square miles of conntryside.

West German Wehrmacht to number half million

The new West German Wehrmacht, to be raised under the Bonn War Treaty, will be about 500,000 men strong "for a start" stated Theodor Blank, West German War Minister, in a press interview.

All nazi war criminals would be released before the army was raised, he stated.

"When the war criminals have been properly rehabilitated it will be possible to work in a spirit of real partnership with the west" he said.

Peasants force back tanks

Peasants from the village of Schwiedebeck, near Harburg in the British Zone, blocked the road when a column of British heavy tanks appeared with the intention of manoeuvering on their fields. Linking arms and standing firm despite the guns turned upon them the peasants forced the tanks to retreat, reports from Harburg stated.

NEW LABOUR LAW IN E. GERMANY

Liberal Holidays for Workers

New regulations on pay, holidays and sickness came into force in the German Democratic Republic at the end of May 1952. Some of the main points of the new regulations, which apply both to nationally owned and to private factories, are as follows:

1. The number of legal holidays yearly is fixed at 13, all on full pay. These holidays include May First, Liberation Day on May 8th, three days at Easter and two at Whitsun and Christmas. (Paid annual holidays, ranging from two to four weeks according to the job, are provided for by other legislation.)

2. Women workers receive one free day monthly on full pay to look after their household.

3. Overtime will be paid at time and a quarter. Work on legal holidays will be paid at double time.

4. Workers temporarily allotted jobs in a higher wage group will be paid at the higher rate. If workers have to be given jobs in a lower wage group, then they will be paid at their old rate for a period of fourteen days.

5. Pregnant women, who have to be given a lighter job because of their condition will receive their old rate of pay. The same applies to nursing mothers.

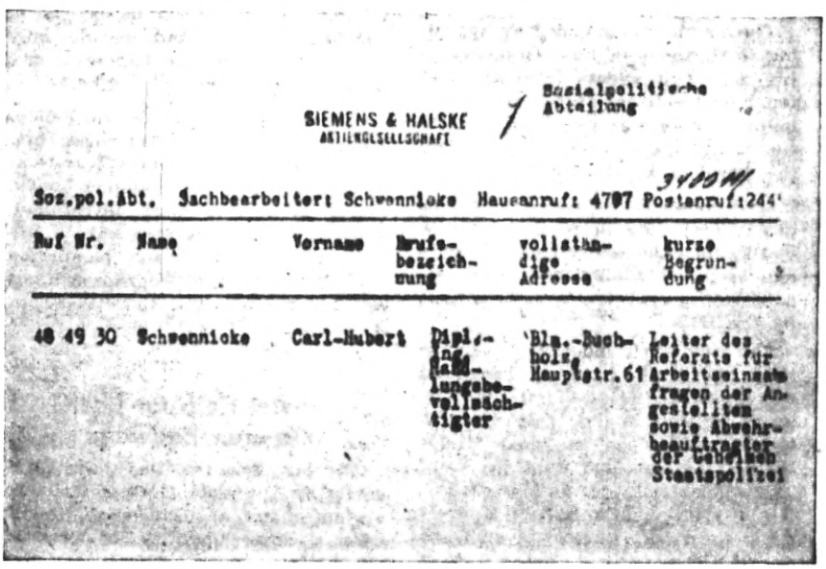
6. In cases of accident and sickness, the factory must supplement the worker's sick pay so that it amounts to 90 percent of his average earnings in the preceding three months. Apprentices' pay will be made up to the full amount they would have earned if not sick.

7. Special free days on full pay will be granted in case of marriage, death of near relation, or moving from one house to another. Time consumed in attending courts of justice will be paid in full, except in the case that the worker concerned is found guilty of some crime.

8. Workers elected to important political posts, such as members of parliament, members of provincial parliaments and of town councils will be paid their full wages while carrying out these functions.

WEST BERLIN "FREEDOM FIGHTER" EXPOSED

City Councillor was Gestapo Agent



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One of the men praised by the Anglo-American newspaper trusts as a "representative of western freedom in West Berlin" is Carl-Hubert Schwennicke, leader of the Free Democratic Party in the West Berlin City Council.

GERMAN REPORT researches have revealed that Carl-Hubert Schwennicke was a Gestapo spy under Hitler. The photograph reproduced above shows his employment card from the war-time files of the great electrical firm of Siemens & Halske.

The card gives his name, address, telephone number, and shows that he works in the "Social-Political Department". Most interesting is the long entry on the right of the card, which states:

"Head of the department dealing with the utilisation of office employees, and at the same time security agent of the Secret State Police."

B.B.C. Broadcasts Nazi Propaganda

"WEHRMACHT LIBERATED RUSSIA" SAYS LONDON

Hitler's Wehrmacht invaded the Soviet Union on June 22nd 1941 in order to liberate the Russian people.

This claim, which makes every old nazi officer polish his medals with pride and reach for his jack-boots once again, was made by the British Broadcasting Corporation in its transmission beamed to East Germany at 1930 GMT on June 3rd, 1952.

"We must learn from the lessons of the campaign in the East" said the British paid commentator, using the word "Ostfeldzug", the old nazi term for the invasion of the Soviet Union.

"This campaign gave us a chance to study conditions behind the iron curtain. This campaign showed us that the majority of the Russian people did not want to fight, but hoped that the Germans would liberate them from the regime."

After praising the Russian traitor Vlassov, who tried to raise a quisling army for Hitler, the commentator then explained that the Soviet Union had managed to beat the nazi army after all because of the clever propaganda of the Soviet leadership.

The commentator ended by appealing to Germans in East Germany to try to recruit agents from amongst the Soviet soldiers stationed in Germany, agents who would go back to the Soviet Union and "help to free the world of Bolshevism."

This commentary, with its obvious aim of preparing Germans for a new war against the Soviet Union, is only one of many examples of the neo-nazi propaganda regularly broadcast by the B.B.C.

The nazi spirit underlying even the most apparently harmless broadcast was shown at 1930 GMT on June 7th, when London Radio transmitted a topical parody on the nazi "Horst Wessel" anthem and used the word "Volksgenossen" (roughly translatable "National Comrade"), a purely nazi form of address which no decent German, in East or West Germany would dream of using today because of its association with Hitler's regime of murder.

This nazidom is mixed with the sheerest nonsense, in large doses. On the same evening as they sang of the "Volksgenossen" the poison-mixers of the B.B.C. quoted from an alleged letter received from a listener in Leipzig.

"The few foodstuffs which we get on our ration cards are not enough. If you saw the queues waiting to buy butter, meat and sausage you would realise the hunger which reigns here."

Fats, meat and sugar are still rationed in East Germany, but any English housewife for instance would be only too delighted to get the rations which are granted all workers, rations not only bigger than those in Britain, but sold at the pre-war prices. For a long period rationed goods have been available in absolutely adequate quantities, and there is no need to queue.

(A case where queues sometimes occur is described in this week's Berlin Notebook on p. 8.)

Another weapon used by the B.B.C. is the attempt to spread nerve war. This is done in a very British manner by denying that there is any need for anxiety. A masterly example of this technique was given by commentator Lindley Fraser at 1930 GMT on June 6th.

"Perhaps I am being too optimistic, but I do not believe that the Kremlin will start a war in the course of the next six months. We know of course the uncertainty and troubles which beset the people in the Eastern Zone, but we can only assure them that the danger is not so great as they may imagine."

The millions of pounds and dollars which British and American taxpayers pay every year for nazi and war propaganda like the examples quoted above is not a good investment, since surveys show that only a minute percentage of the population ever listen to the programmes put out by London and the "Voice of America".

Soviet Help for East German Railways

The Soviet authorities have presented to the East German railway system many thousands of freight cars, a large quantity of electric locomotives and other valuable material including electric equipment, Erwin Kramer, General director of the railways announced.

The rolling stock and other material had been delivered to the Soviet Union as reparations for war damage in 1945. The handing over of this material was only one of the many ways in which the Soviet Union had helped the East German railways to do a better job than ever before, Erwin Kramer stated.

U. S. Paper gloats on Ruhr Arms Industry

"The mines and factories of West Germany, and more particularly that concentration of heavy industry that is the Ruhr valley, have in the past made possible German rearmament on a vast scale," stated the New York Herald Tribune on June 9th.

"Large American and British orders have already been placed here for machine tools and rolled steel products . . . required for the Western defence effort.

"American aircraft builders have contracted with German firms for the delivery of such items as milling machines, turret lathes and radial drills. The first of these orders was placed as early as nine months ago. Even before that Britain had ordered several thousand machine tools for its defence industries.

"Survey conducted by the Mutual Security Agency Mission here embrace such fields as machine tools, electronics, magnesium sheet rolling, aircraft type batteries, jet engine parts and mine sweepers."

Doodle-bugs Again

The new West German Wehrmacht will be equipped by the western authorities with V 1 and V 2 weapons, gas and german warfare equipment, stated the "Essener Tageblatt", West German industrialists' newspaper on June 8th.

United Candidate wins

A Social Democrat Guenther Klotz was elected mayor of the West German industrial city of Karlsruhe on June 8th by the united votes of Social Democrats and Communists.

Democratic
GERMAN REPORT

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17 Murray St.,
New York 7.

All other communications to:
Democratic German Report,
Friedrichstrasse 167/III,
Berlin W 8,
Germany.

All material in this paper may be freely reprinted. Voucher copies of reprints appreciated.

Readers' Letters

Who stops travel?

"I am a member of the British Labour ... what we should like to see is freedom for visitors from both zones (of Germany), and the frontiers of both Germany and Russia thrown open to our children, to let each see how the others live. We were told this year that if children came (to England) from the Eastern Zone of Germany they would not be allowed to join their parents in the East Zone on their return. There is nothing in your article in GERMAN REPORT about the birth of a baby in Berlin (issue dated April 25th) that does not exist in Great Britain."

Mrs Gertrude Chadwick, 4 Overdale Terrace, Halton, Nr. Leeds, England.

GERMAN REPORT wrote to Mrs. Chadwick immediately upon receipt of this letter, five weeks ago, asking who had given information that children from East Germany would not be allowed to rejoin their parents if they went to England. No reply had been received at the date of writing.

Our reply stated in part:

"We should be only too glad to see a time when the frontiers of all nations were thrown open so that we could all see how other people live. A peaceful agreement between East and West would be a first step towards such a development.

"When you criticise lack of freedom to cross frontiers, please do not forget that the barriers are not all on one side. In the past few weeks the British government has refused to allow foreign guests to visit Britain for such events as the Sheffield Youth Rally at Whitsun, and last summer, when the youth of the world were invited to Berlin, American soldiers with fixed bayonets blocked the way at Innsbruck.

"With regard to your comments on our article "Having a Baby in Berlin" there is one very important point to bear in mind: that is that while prices are falling steadily and medical services are steadily improving here, the exact reverse is true in Britain."

Murder Protest

"May I say how indignant I was to read in a recent issue of your paper of the brutal killing of Philipp Mueller by West German police. Having attended the World Youth Festival last summer I have great respect for the work of the Free German Youth for peace and I am sending a letter of protest bearing 60 signatures to the West German government saying how indignant we are at this outrage."

P. J. Allen, Bristol, England.

"We are putting the report to good use, not only to increase our own limited information on actual occurrences in Germany, but to use in letters to the editors of local dailies, for example.

There lived in this city a man who wrote many letters to the press, always discussing the implacable aims of Russia. We kept answering his epistles. This winter he died, and one of the epistolary duellists called up to offer sympathy. His widow blurted into the telephone: 'If he had not had to spend so much time chasing down facts to support his arguments, he would not have strained his heart. It is all your fault.'"

L. H., Montreal, Canada.

GERMAN REPORT hopes that many other readers are using its facts and figures as ammunition in the local press. If it makes some people strain their brains, rather than their hearts, it will be all to the good.

Factory Law

"Recent issues of GERMAN REPORT have talked about demonstrations against the new draft Factory Law in West Germany. What is there in this law which gives rise to such great demonstrations?"

D. D., London, England.

The West German Trade Union Federation has called for demonstrations and protest strikes against the new Factory Law prepared by Adenauer's government because in dozens of ways, some small and some big, it robs the trade unions of rights won in hard struggles.

"The new Federal Factory Law ensures fewer rights to the workers than the Shop Councils Act of 1920" stated the official West German Trade Union organ, "and in many respects would deprive the unions of rights already given them in acts passed in several provinces since 1945."

Main objection raised by the trade union leadership is to the stipulation in the new law that only one third of the "Factory Council" should be composed of workers' representatives. They call for fifty-fifty representation by workers and employers which would give at least the appearance of reality to the right-wing trade union slogan of "co-determination in industry."

In fact, as has been seen by experience in branches of industry in which such councils have been set up, the employers are always able to push through their point of view by a) their economic power and b) the use of a "neutral" chairman.

Other objections to the new law are to the fact that it severely limits eligibility to election to the Shop Council to persons on the West German electoral roll, over 21, who have worked in the factory for at least two years; and to the fact that it lays down separate elections for workers and office staffs in each works, thus setting up an artificial barrier between them.

The great response on the part of the workers to the appeal for strikes and demonstrations has been governed more by a general rejection of the whole war policy of the Adenauer government, and by a demand for increased wages, rather than by very strong feeling about the Factory Act, which is couched in such difficult legal language that very few can understand it.

Monopoly Press

"I was pleased to get your paper and can report our people are glad to hear from you directly as we are handed so much misinformation in the monopoly controlled press. The peace of the world surely is possible of achievement if we all put our best efforts towards that end."

Mrs B. A., Minneapolis, U.S.A.

"I wish you could comment in your paper in the future on what people in the Democratic German Republic think about propaganda broadcasts directed to them from the B.B.C., the Voice of America, and Radio Free Europe. Millions of dollars are spent by the State Department on Voice of America broadcasts, and I am curious to what extent our tax money is being wasted."

G. D., Houston, Texas, U.S.A.

In this number of GERMAN REPORT we comment upon one of the more shameless broadcasts to East Germany from the B.B.C. For some time after the war people who had got used to listening to some of the anti-nazi broadcasts from British and American radio stations continued to tune in. When these stations swung over to warmongering, listening dropped sharply. These propaganda broadcasts now defeat their own purpose, because the picture of East German conditions which they present is so grotesque that listeners cannot take them seriously.

Letter of Week

"Your paper is not subtle enough to deceive English people."

Christine M. Fox
Roedean School
Brighton, England

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

In the past few weeks British and American papers have carried many wild reports from Berlin, and lots of people must be persuaded that the city is cut into two halves, divided by a wall of barbed wire.

Just before writing these lines I went out on to the little balcony of my office in the Friedrichstrasse, in the very heart of Berlin. From the balcony I can see into the American Sector, which starts about 400 yards down the street.

Shading my eyes, I found that I could see quite clearly the white board on the sector boundary, but it was too far away for me to read the words which I know are painted on it: "You are now entering the American Sector."

That is the only sign that one part of Berlin, the Democratic Eastern Sector, stops there, and that another part, the western sectors, starts. In the roadway there is a steady stream of automobiles, trucks and bicycles, most of which are halted for a few seconds by a People's Policeman for a quick check that they are not trying to smuggle goods like stolen typewriters into the western sectors.

If any of the British or American correspondents who have cut Berlin in two so cheerfully would care to drop by, I should be glad to show them the scene from my balcony. I think I can resist the temptation to push them off.

Few Queues

We have very few queues in East Berlin these days, but every now and then when some rather scarce delicacy suddenly becomes available a queue forms up. I was standing in one of these queues the other day, waiting to buy a pound of the wonderful juicy strawberries which had just started to arrive from Bulgaria, when I was struck by the difference between queues a year or two ago and queues now.

Only two or three years ago the housewives morosely standing in line for their rations made a grey and dreary picture. They grumbled incessantly, screamed murderously if anyone tried to "jump the queue" and were very down at the heel. It was not surprising, since they were most of them trying to keep a household going on the scantiest of rations, with off-ration goods at appallingly high prices.

Today the picture is quite different. No one really likes to stand in line waiting to be served, I expect, but there was an air almost of friendliness about the queue. Everyone looked well-fed and neatly dressed, the woman in front of me was confiding to a friend that she would have to cut down on something or other soon because she was getting too fat.

But what struck me most forcibly of all was the way in which pitching-in to help has apparently become part of the second nature of East Berliners these days. When a truck with more strawberries drew up, a dozen of us, without anyone saying a word, formed a chain and started to pass the baskets over the counter, speeding-up the unloading.

These ordinary housewives had grasped the fact that the shop was their shop, and the strawberries were their strawberries, just as the worker in a nationally owned factory in East Germany knows that the factory is his, and is ready to defend it.

Blind Eye

GERMAN REPORT's own "Order of Nelson," awarded at irregular intervals to the journalist who does the best job of peering at the German scene and not seeing things, goes this week to Don Cook, Berlin correspondent of the New York Herald Tribune.

On June 6th the Herald Tribune (Paris Edition) screamed on the front page "Grotewohl hasn't been seen in two Weeks," over a story alleging that East German Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl had disappeared.

"The disappearance of Mr. Grotewohl is causing much speculation," speculated Mr. Cook. "The Soviet controlled ADN news agency reported that he was present at the Leipzig convention last week... but he did not show up in the East German photos of the top leaders on the reviewing stand."

I can only request Mr. Cook to take the Berlin newspaper "Vorwaerts" for June 3rd, and look at the front page. There is Prime Minister Grotewohl, on the reviewing stand (he is the figure on the right, if you are still blinded, Mr. Cook) looking very healthy and waving to the crowd.

Mr. Cook managed to make himself a front page story by not seeing something which was there.

A British colleague of his, Mr. David Walker of the London Daily Mirror, receives our special "Award of the Pink Elephant" for seeing things which are not there.

In the Daily Mirror of May 28th Mr Walker assured the four million unfortunate readers of the paper that he had attended a session of the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic and seen "high above the Speaker, the hammer and sickle stand out clearly against a blue background... My pink entrance card shows that this is the 21st Plenary Session of the People's Parliament of the Free German Democratic Republic."

I have often listened to debates in the People's Chamber—journalists from both east and west have free access — but if there is either a hammer and sickle to be seen there above the Speaker's chair, or the word "Free" in front of the title of the German Democratic Republic, then I am willing to stand Mr. Walker the most elaborate lunch he likes at any East Berlin restaurant, and I shall sit there and just eat this copy of GERMAN REPORT.

The points I have just made are not important in themselves, perhaps, but just ask yourselves this simple question.

These jouralists are:

a) unable or unwilling to recognise a clear photograph of the Prime Minister of the country they are writing about,

b) do not know a sickle when they see it,

c) do not know the name of the country they are writing about. Are journalists like these, and the newspapers they write in, likely to give you a true picture of the very complicated political situation in Berlin and the whole of Germany today?

Black Boots

I am being very lavish with decorations this week, but I cannot resist allotting a special "Certificate of Wordmanship" to the unnamed Associated Press correspondent who filed a story from Kassel, American Zone on June 9th containing this immortal sentence:

"Border crossers... said that black-booted people's police pushed into four border villages last night."

To the careless reader the words "black-booted" probably sound very menacing, but just go out and take a look at the policeman on the nearest corner. Thinking quickly I cannot remember seeing any police anywhere who did not wear black boots.

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